



**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
**Forest Service, Southern Region**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **USDA Forest Service to Restore Historic Shelters on Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests**

(Columbia, S.C.) - The USDA Forest Service has begun restoring the Huger picnic shelter, located at the Huger Recreation Area on the Francis Marion National Forest, as part of a statewide effort by the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests to rehabilitate four log picnic shelters built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. The shelters are in need of extensive repair, having suffered the natural degradation of both time and popularity.

“This restoration effort is extremely timely since we’re celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of South Carolina’s national forests in 2011, as well as the centennial of the Weeks Forest Purchase Act,” said Paul Bradley, forest supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. “The Weeks Act was the first law of its kind, authorizing the USDA Forest Service to partner with other organizations. Restoring the shelters gives us a great opportunity to celebrate the past labors of the CCC, as well as the future efforts of the American College of the Building Arts (ACBA) as they help us restore these monuments to our past.”

The ACBA, located in Charleston, S.C., will conduct ongoing class exercises in the treatment, conservation and repair of the historic log structures, providing students with hands-on experience in carpentry, timber-framing, and masonry at all levels within their programs. The partnership honors the history of the CCC in South Carolina by recognizing and preserving the craftsmanship and labor of CCC enrollees from across the country.

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*South Carolina’s National Forests*  
*Celebrating 75 Years of Restoring Forests, Protecting Water and Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires.*

## **2-2-2 USDA Forest Service to Restore Historic Shelters on Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests**

The project, managed by Arris Building Group of Charleston, S.C., is designed to provide hands-on skill training to preservation and architecture students while combining contemporary structural rehabilitation techniques, such as the use of modern fasteners and wood restoration epoxies.

President Franklin Roosevelt created the CCC to combat devastating unemployment during the Great Depression. The program provided unskilled manual labor jobs to young men aged 18-25, and served to implement natural resource conservation programs across the nation on rural federal, state and local government lands. Between 1933 and 1941, workers built public parks and structures, restocked rivers, fought wildfires, worked on flood control projects and planted nearly three billion trees to reforest the country.

For more information on the national forests in South Carolina, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms>. For more information on the Weeks Act Centennial Celebration, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/weeksact>.

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